

### Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims

1. (canceled)
2. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence comprising:
  - a) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;
  - b) the *sac*ABCDEFGH operon of SEQ ID NO:1;
  - c) the *sacA*, *sacB*, *sacC*, *sacD*, *sacE*, *sacF*, *sacG*, and *sacH* genes of SEQ ID NO:1;
  - d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9; or
  - e) a nucleic acid sequence that is the full complement to the sequence in a), b), c), or d).
3. (canceled)
4. (previously presented) The nucleic acid sequence of claim 2, wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises:
  - a) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; or
  - b) the nucleic acid sequence which is the full complement to the sequence in a).
- 5-17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid sequence of claim 2.

19. (previously presented) The vector of claim 18 which is an expression vector.

20. (previously presented) The vector of claim 18 which is a cosmid.

21-31. (canceled)

32. (previously presented) A composition comprising at least one nucleic acid sequence of claim 2.

33-42. (canceled)

43. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 2 wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises the *sacABCDEFGH* operon.

44-45. (canceled)

46. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence comprising both the *sacABCDEFGH* operon and the *sacIJ* operon of SEQ ID NO:1.

47. (canceled)

48. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 46 wherein the *sacI* gene of the *sacIJ* operon is disrupted.

49. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 46 wherein the *sacJ* gene of the *sacIJ* operon is disrupted.

50. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 46 wherein the *sacI* gene of the *sacIJ* operon is disrupted and the expression of the *sacJ* gene has been reconstituted.

51. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 46 wherein the *sacF* gene and/or the *sacG* gene of the *sacABCDEFGH* operon has been disrupted.

52. (previously presented) The nucleic acid sequence of claim 2 wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

53. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence comprising:

- a) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;
- b) the *sacABCDEFGH* operon of SEQ ID NO:1; or
- c) a nucleic acid sequence that is the full complement to the sequence in a) or b).

54-59. (canceled)